



# MODULE: CONSERVATION THEORY & SKILLS (BLENDED MODE OF PROVISIONING)

CTS01PGD (10 Credits)

DURATION: 9 WEEKS (2 days in residence)

**THE SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR HERITAGE SCIENCE & CONSERVATION**

*Provisionally registered with the Department of Higher Education and Training as a private higher education institution under the Act.  
Registration certificate No. 2018/HE07/007 - valid until 31/12/2022*

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# CONSERVATION THEORY & SKILLS

Enrollment category: Special Student  
A 10-credit module

## Module Purpose

The module, *Conservation Theory & Skills*, is designed to provide an advanced and integrated understanding of ethical codes of practice and conduct within the heritage preservation sector. It also provides an intellectual foundation to assist with the application, function and consequences of ethical decisions for conservator-restorers. The principles are integrated in the learning process throughout the programme.

The module also provides the theoretical underpinning of material characterization, chemical and physical aspects of material degradation, instruction on interventive procedures for material preservation, as well as health and safety aspects. Other modules, **specifically linked** to this subject, are *Introduction to Ceramics Conservation*, *Introduction to Paper Conservation*, *Introduction to Metals Conservation*, and *Introduction to Stone & Mortar Conservation*.

## Learning Outcomes

On completion of this module, the student should be able to:

1. sufficiently understand the meaning of the stipulations outlined in the “*Professional Code of Conservation Ethics*”, to instruct all actions as described in the document.
2. have the required knowledge and understanding to enable them to correctly identify materials, deterioration and agents of deterioration through visual examination, spot tests and analyses in paper, ceramic, metal, stone & mortars.
3. identify and understand the results of deterioration due to poor handling, unfavourable climatic conditions and the ageing process in general.
4. have the required knowledge & understanding to enable students to correctly specify treatment in accordance with ethical norms for paper, ceramics, metal, stone and mortar.
5. be informed of and compliant with health & safety requirements in respect to the tools and materials employed.

## Themes

Ethics in Heritage Conservation	Conservation ethic and it's particular application within the specialisms of ceramics conservation, paper conservation, metals conservation, and stone & mortar conservation.
Ceramics Conservation	Characterization of ceramics; types of deterioration as well as preventive measures; investigative tools and techniques for conservation specification purposes; solvents & solubility; polymer adhesives & fillers; traditional adhesives & fillers; adhesion theory; re-modelling & profile accuracy, colour & colour matching and airbrushing equipment & techniques; integration and finishing. Relevant laboratory health and safety measures.
Paper Conservation	Characterization of paper based materials; types of deterioration as well as preventive measures; investigative tools and techniques for conservation specification purposes; damage analysis; surface cleaning; aqueous treatments such as humidification, washing, de-acidification & re-sizing; repairs & reinforcement to paper substrate; drying & flattening; pressure sensitive tape removal; auxiliary backing removal and retouching.
Metals Conservation	Characterization of metals; types of deterioration as well as preventive measures; investigative tools and techniques for conservation specification purposes; heat & metals; polymer and non-metal replacements; moulds & white metal casting; workshop contamination; patination & waxing of metal objects; protective lacquers and maintenance.
Stone & Mortar Conservation	Characterization of stone and mortars; types of deterioration as well as preventive measures; investigative tools and techniques for conservation specification purposes; mechanical and chemical cleaning; consolidation; mortar formulation & gypsum plasters; profiles & mould making; polymer resin casting; finishing and integration techniques and concluding with maintenance scheduling.



## PREScribed MODULE STUDY MATERIAL:

- Conservation of Cultural Heritage: Key Principles and Approaches by Hanna M. Szczepanowska
- The Elements of Archaeological Conservation by J.M. Cronyn

## RECOMMENDED READING:

- The Art of the Conservator by A Oddy.
- The Conservation and Restoration of Ceramics by S. Buys & V. Oakley.
- Book and Paper Speciality Group – Paper Conservation Wiki
- Metals and Corrosion. A Handbook for the Conservation Professional by L. Selwyn.
- Stone Conservation: Principles and Practice by A. Henry
- Materials for Conservation: Organic consolidants, Adhesives and Coatings by V. Horie.
- Material characterization tests for objects of art and archaeology by N. Odegaard; S. Carroll & W. Zimmt.
- Caring for the Past by E. Pye.
- The museum environment by G. Thompson.

## TEACHING & LEARNING METHODS:

Synchronous online video conference meetings shall feature, during which lectures and tutorials shall be presented, resulting in interaction between tutors and student. Ongoing direction and instruction shall follow, requiring reading, self-study and assignments to be submitted. The formative coursework shall account for 40% of the total mark.

A final summative assessment shall conclude this CTS module. The summative coursework shall account for 60% of the total mark.

The pass mark for Conservation Theory and Skills is 55%

The credits attained upon successful completion of the Conservation Theory & Skills module shall be transferable towards completion of the Postgraduate Diploma *“Technical Conservation Studies”* for candidates meeting the enrolment prerequisites for the programme.

## COURSE DETAILS

Enrolment prerequisites:	Chemistry, at least on 1st year level OR an appropriate Chemistry bridging course, successfully completed (e.g. <a href="#">“Bridging to Chemistry for Conservation”</a> )
Starting:	April & August 2022 (2-day, on-campus contact session)
Course duration:	9 weeks
Course fee:	R11 535.95 (VAT Exempt)
Prescribed textbooks:	R1 302.61 (excl. VAT) (excl. shipping)
Tuition Tool-kit:	R605.00 (excl. VAT, packaging, and shipping)

**Certificate of attainment & scored Course Report follow completion.**  
(Both digital and hard copy versions are typically furnished)